



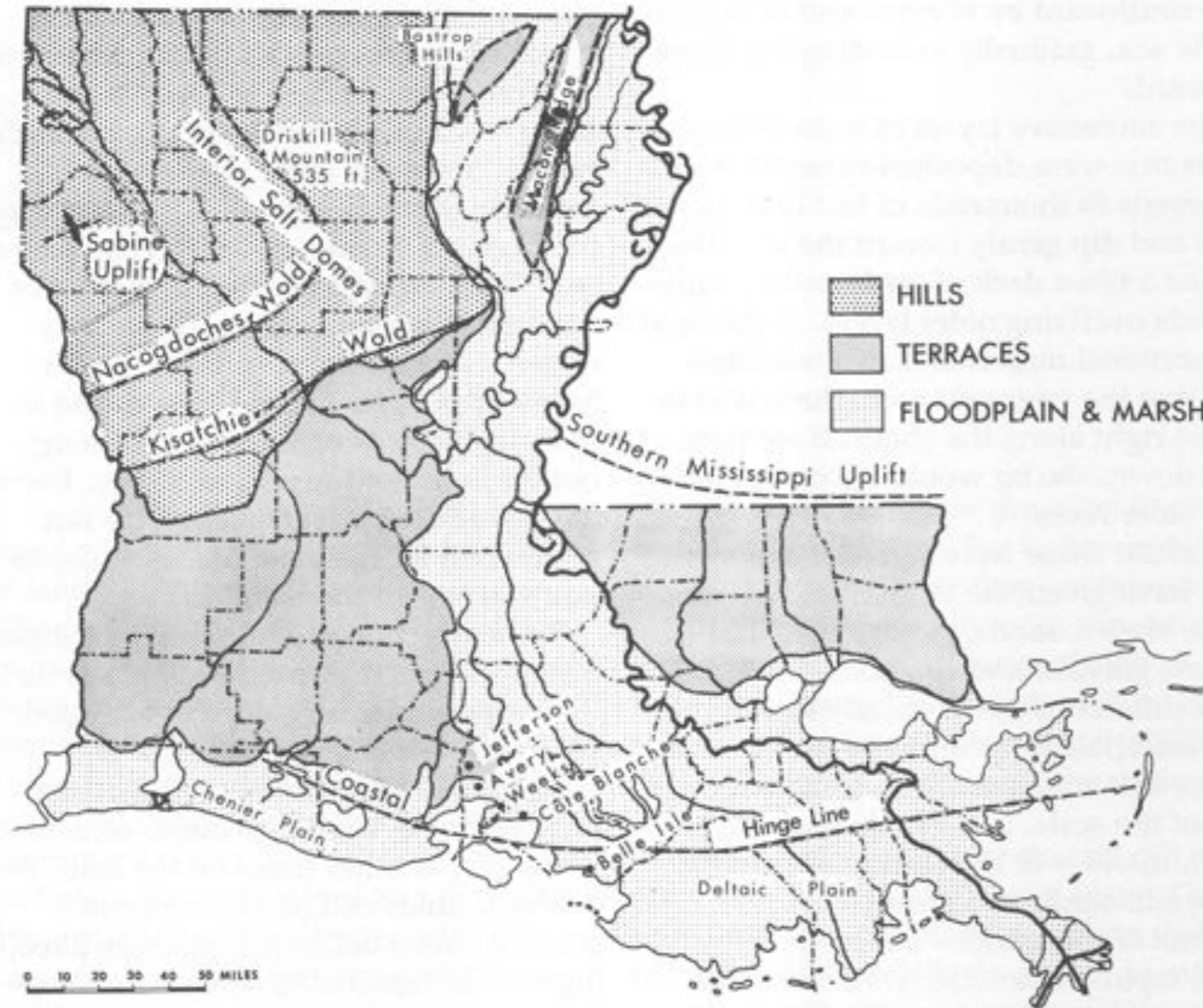
THE TWO LOUISIANAS

A SHORT HISTORY

FOREWORD

Unwilling or unable to grapple with the complexity of south Louisiana's polyglot population, many writers and some scholars either restrict the scope of their work to only one segment of the society—usually focusing on the Cajun, who are often perceived as the region's most “exotic” people—or attempt to simplify the problem of ethnic and racial diversity by dealing in broad, often inaccurate generalizations. For example, many writers portray the region's black and white communities as monolithic groups, ignoring the class and cultural cleavages that alternately fragmented them or brought them together in interesting ways. Creoles of Color are often lost in the shuffle, despite their demographic importance and significant contributions to the region's development.

PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY



Coastal Marsh

Mississippi Flood plain

Red River Valley

Terraces

Hills

HUMANS IN LOUISIANA

In less than 300 years, European settlers have made changes so great that the early explorers of 1700 would find little familiar in the current landscape.

E.g., introduction of new species of plants and animals, modification of the landscape for agricultural, economic, and commercial purposes.





BASIC NEEDS

Animal Basics:

shelter

sustenance (water and food)

social contact (communication)

Human differential: Accumulation of knowledge, of technical know-how.

Cultural differential: What separates one group from another is their **value system**.

HUMAN ECONOMIES

GATHERING	digging roots, collecting clams and eggs, gathering nuts and berries
HUNTING & FISHING	+ <i>gathering</i>
AGRICULTURE & COMPLEX SOCIETY	+ <i>gathering</i> + <i>hunting & fishing.</i>

PREHISTORIC INDIANS

A catch-all category for all peoples who lived in what is now Louisiana before the first Europeans arrived.

Perhaps they were not at all like Indians we know.

Our information about them is based entirely on the things they left behind, their material culture which has endured the wear and tear of time and subsequent civilizations.



WHAT THEY LEFT BEHIND

Stone and bone tools and weapons

Animal and human bones

Pottery, whole or in pieces

Seeds

Post molds where house posts were once fixed

Imprints of basketry

MOUNDS AND MIDDENS



Mounds are structures built of earth or shell according to some plan: cone-shaped burial mounds, flat-topped pyramidal temple mounds, animal-shaped effigy mounds, and fortification-like earthworks are the common shapes.

Middens are dump heaps. They are composed of the refuse of a group that lived nearby: shells, bones, broken pots, horn, and bone as well as the black earth that results from the decomposition of organic matter.

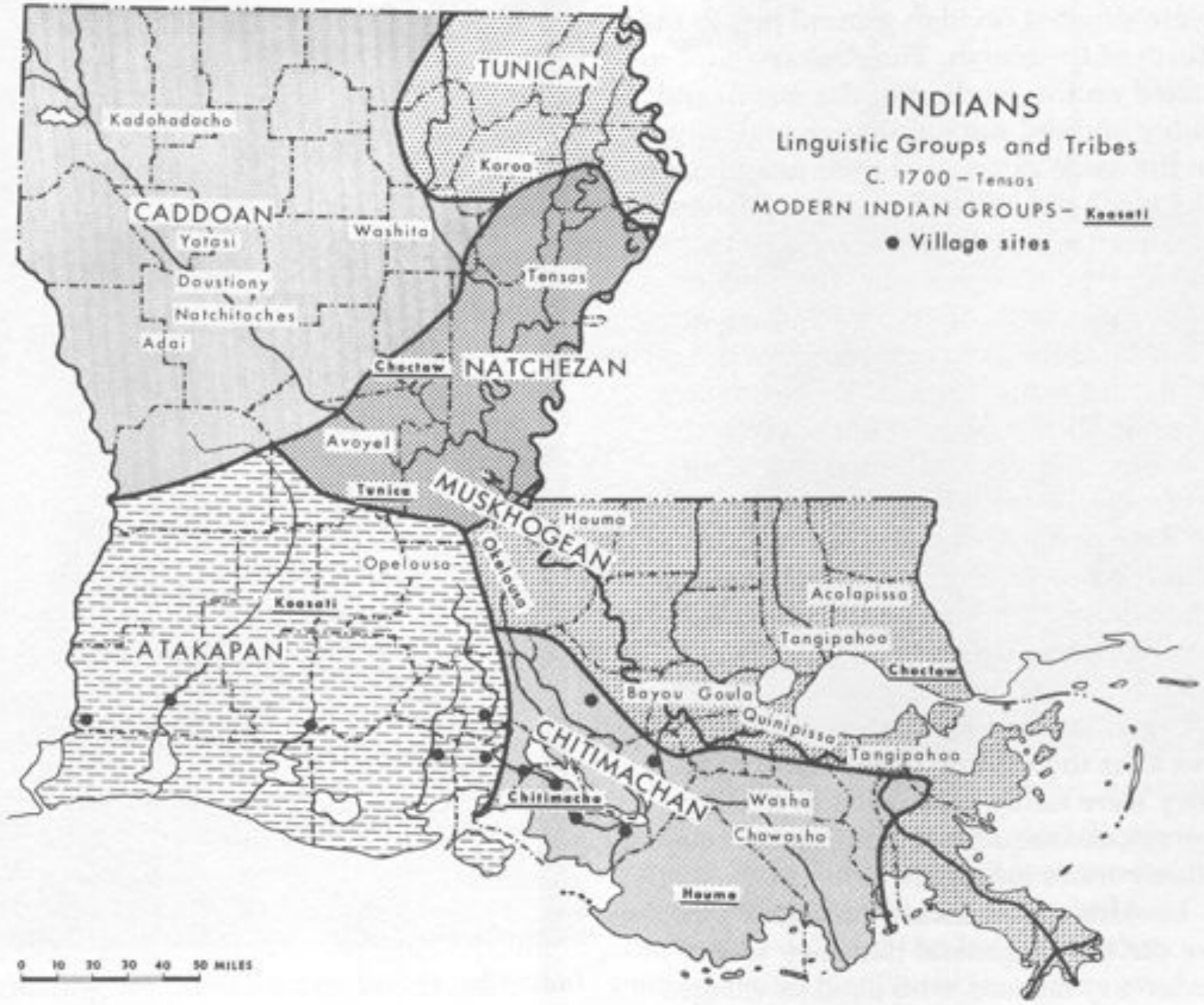
WHAT DID LOUISIANA OFFER?

REGION	+	-
COASTAL MARSH	+++ Abundant animal life	- Insects, storms
PRAIRIES	+ Hunting and gathering near streams	-- Streams few and far, some dependent on rain
FLOODPLAINS	++ Animals, fish, roots, berries; boomed with agriculture. Waterways enable transportation.	(-) Periodic flooding (good for the soil)
PINE FLATWOODS	(+) Stones & Salt	--- Sporadic game, few gatherable plants, soil no good for agriculture

HISTORIC INDIANS

A few years after Columbus' voyages to the New World, the first Europeans appeared in Louisiana, but it was about 1700 when they came to live, which is where we commonly place the beginning of the historic period.

By the time of European exploration, and its concomitant, conquest, the flood-plains were still the preferred dwelling sites, with the coast's importance as a resource having subsided somewhat, perhaps due to the success of agriculture.



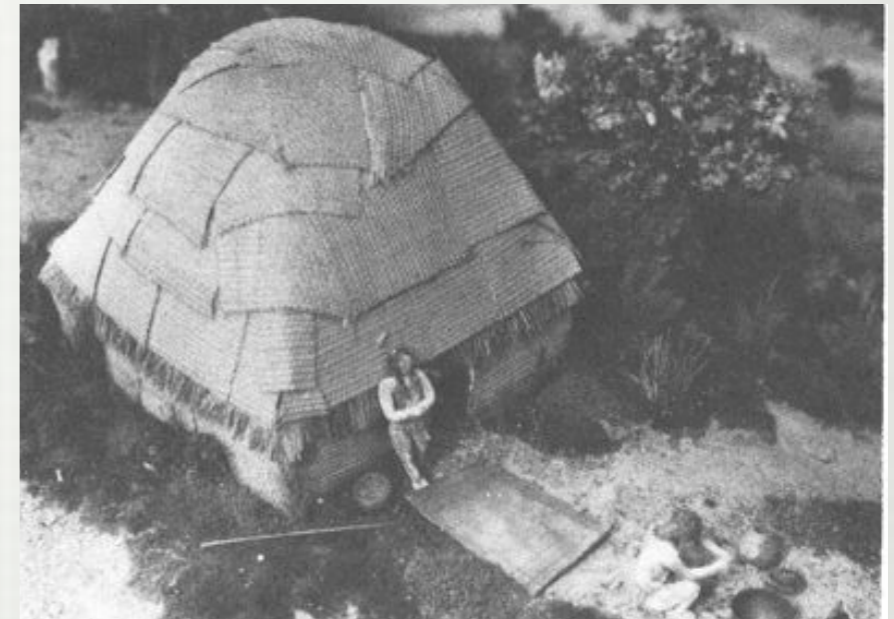
INDIANS

Linguistic Groups and Tribes
 C. 1700 - Tensas
 MODERN INDIAN GROUPS - Khasati
 ● Village sites

0 10 20 30 40 50 MILES

HISTORIC INDIANS

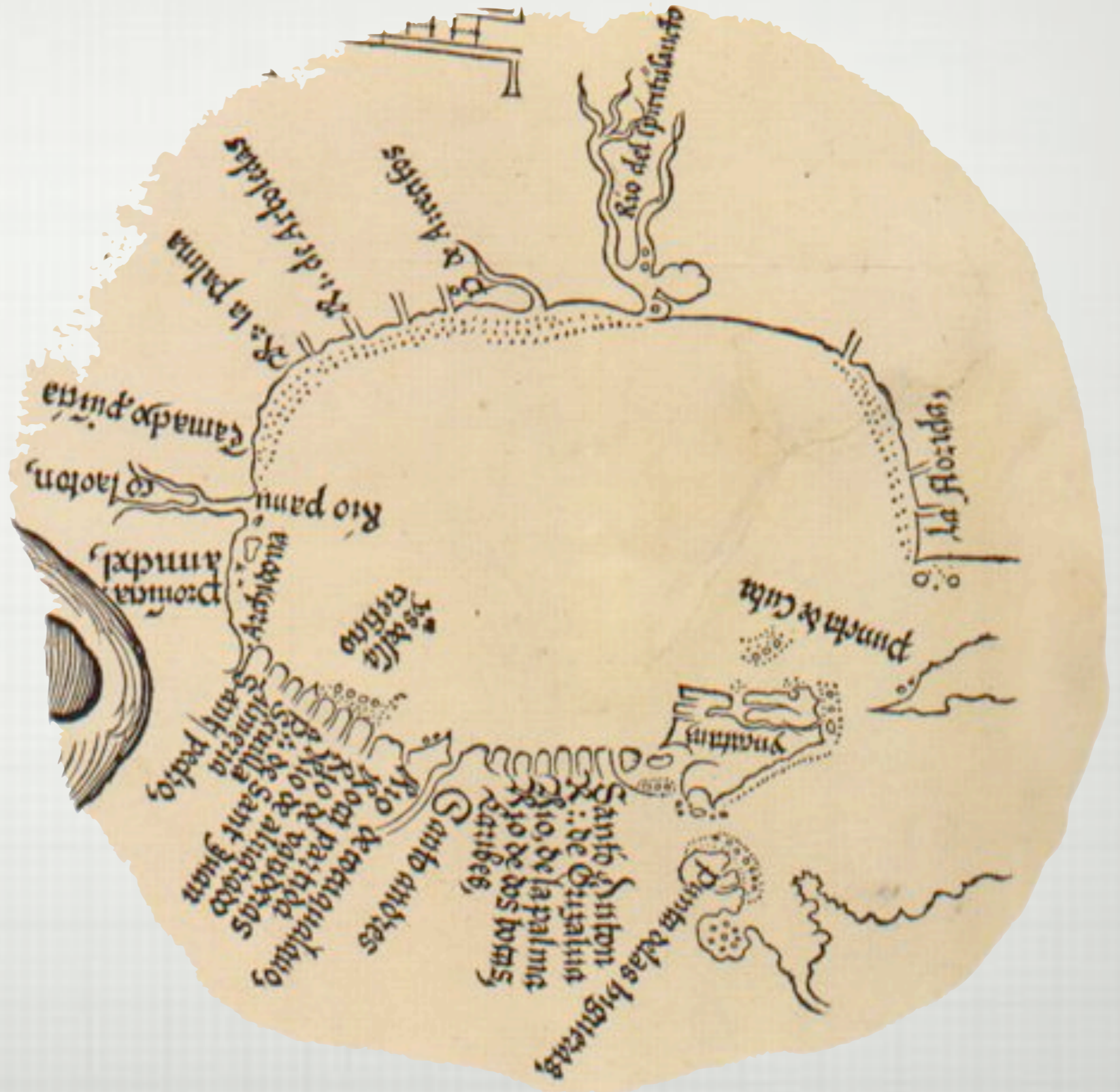
- For example, in South Louisiana, houses were commonly made of palmetto.
- In Central Louisiana, houses were solid cabins consisting of a heavy frame filled with earth and covered with cane mats.
- In NW La, houses were beehive-shaped frames thatched with bundles of grass.



EARLY EXPLORATION

Beginning in 1502, the Spanish map and explore the Gulf Coast, culminating in Ferdinand de Soto's voyage begun in Tampa in 1539 and ending in Mexico around 1543.

150 years later, in 1682, de la Salle arrived looking for wealth of a different kind, furs.

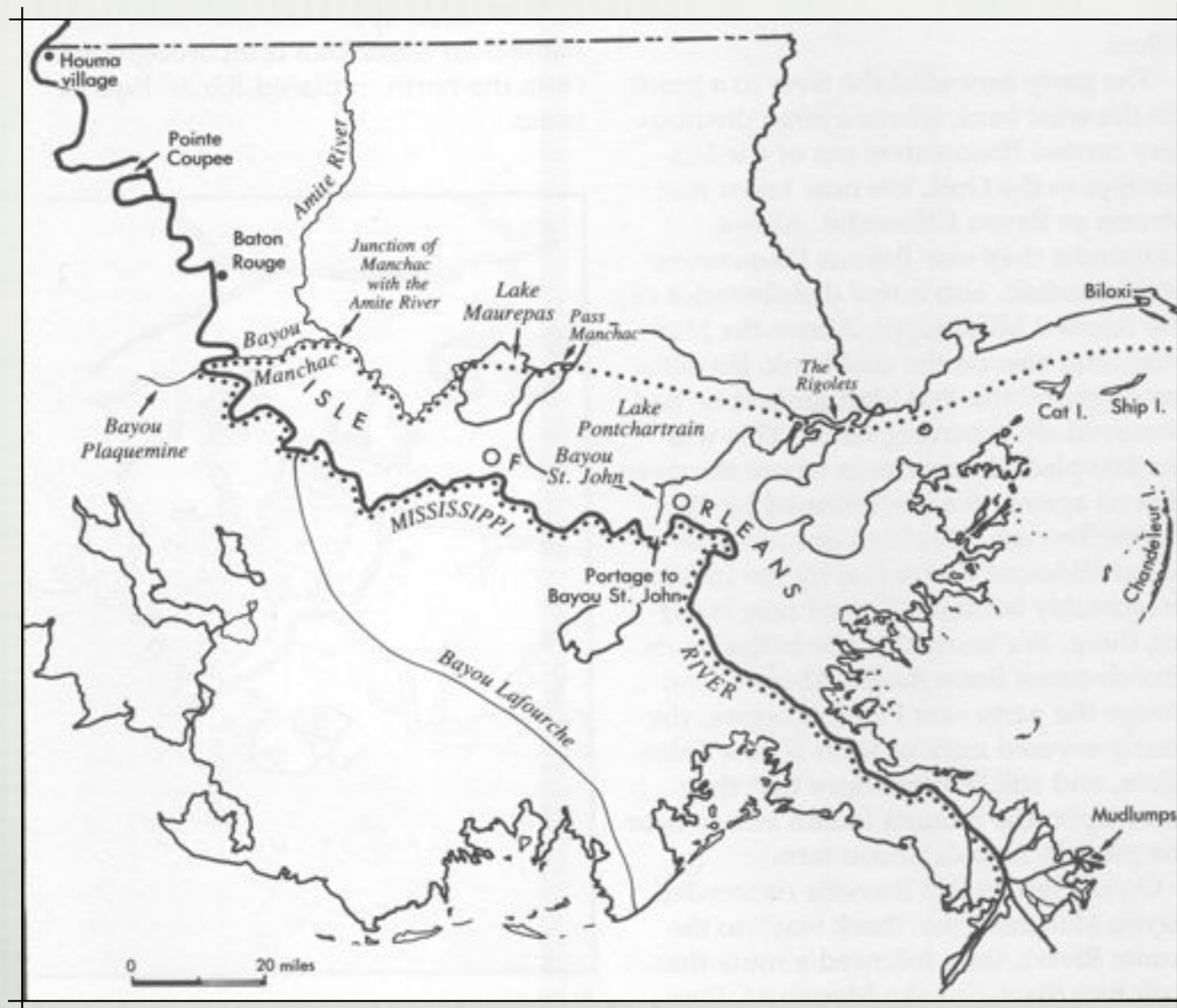


EARLY EXPLORATION

The new territory, Louisiane, could only be held by settlement, to substantiate the claim.

A Canadian-born Frenchman, Pierre le Moyne, Sieur de Iberville, arrived from France in 1698 at Ship Island. (After making his tour of SE LA, Iberville decided to establish a settlement in Biloxi—because he imagined the Mississippi to be unnavigable.)

IBERVILLE'S EXPLORATION



1699	France claims the Louisiana territory for itself.
1713	French financier Antoine Crozat granted commercial monopoly of Louisiana.
1714	The first permanent post by Europeans is established at Natchitoches. Its two purposes were: (1) to assert the French claim and (2) to develop trade with Spanish settlements Texas and Mexico.
1717	Antoine Crozat turns Louisiana over to John Law's Company of the West. The population of the colony, if it can be called that, at the time was about 400, including men, women, and children. It was granted a monopoly of Louisiana's trade for 25 years and of the Canadian beaver trade in perpetuity

1718

New Orleans is founded on the site of a long-established portage point where the Mississippi River comes closest to the shores of Lake Ponchartrain.

It becomes Louisiana's principal urban center and port.

Flowing out of the city were furs, hides, timber, and agricultural products (to the French West Indies, to the English North American Colonies later states, to New Spain, and occasionally to Europe).

Flowing into the port were finished goods like flour and cloth that the colonials could not supply or manufacture for themselves.



1719

The first Africans arrive in Louisiana. Two-thirds of the slaves brought to Louisiana by the French slave trade came from Senegambia.

One thing the colony could not manufacture for itself and upon which its success depended was cheap, dependable labor. Native Americans were not easily enslaved, though some Indian slaves did exist in the New Orleans area. The solution had already been established: Africans.



1763	Louisiana ceded to Spain under the provisions of the Treaty of Paris.
1769	Spain takes control of the colony.
1803	Napoleon reacquires Louisiana territory and sells it to U.S.
1804	U.S. Congress closes the external slave trade.

THE AFRICAN CONTRIBUTION

In addition to the Creoles of Color, African folk cultures make a significant contribution to the folk cultures of south Louisiana through the folk cultures of African Americans. That is, Africans in Louisiana contribute both to Francophonic and Anglophonic cultures.

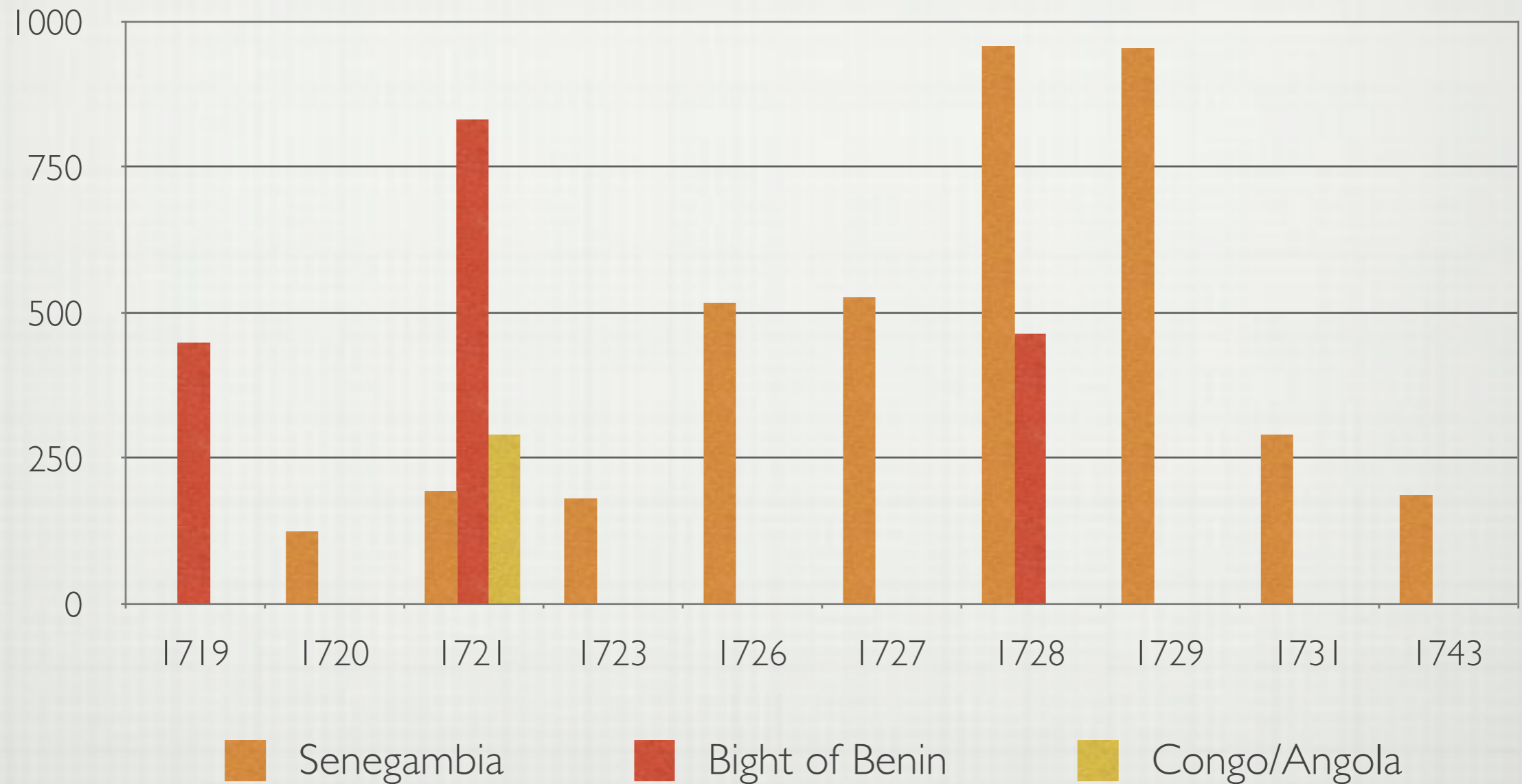
In some ways, the contributions are similar or parallel; in some ways, the contributions are different enough to be distinguished.

These latter contributions are a direct result of an overall process of usually mutual acculturation; that is the merging of two cultures, one European (English or French) and one African (Bambara, Senegalese, Kikongo, Wolof, etc).

THE SENEGAL CONCESSION OF THE COMPANY OF THE INDIES



NUMBERS & ORIGINS



SLAVES LANDED IN LOUISIANA BY FRENCH SLAVE TRADE



WEST AFRICA

WHAT IS “CREOLE”?